

Figure 3 shows the sequence similarities between the Ced-4 protein and some calcium-binding proteins. The consensus sequence of the calcium-binding loop is shown at the top. The positions indicated by X, Y, Z, -X, and -Z correspond to vertices of an octahedron. The numbers above the X, Y, Z, -X and -Z correspond to the positions of the residues within the 29 amino acid EF-hand sequence. Amino acids are indicated by the single letter code. O, amino acid with an oxygen containing side chain. \*, non-conserved amino acid. Position Y, Z, and -X can be any amino acid with oxygen-containing side chains. Position X is usually aspartic acid, and position -z is usually glutamic acid. Conserved amino acids are shown in bold-face. Deviations from the EF-hand consensus are underlined. The EF-hand sequences listed correspond to the following SEQ ID NO.s: ced-4 sequence 1 (SEQ ID NO.:30); ced-4 sequence 2 (SEQ ID NO.:31); Parvalbumin (carp) (SEQ ID NO.:3), (hake) (SEQ ID NO.:4), (ray) (SEQ ID NO.:5); SCBP (SEQ ID NO.:6), ICaBP (bovine first and second sequence) (SEQ ID NO.s:7 and 8, respectively; Troponin C (first through fourth sequences) (SEQ ID NO.s:9-12, respectively; Calmodulin (SEQ ID NO.:13); Trypsinogen (SEQ ID NO.:14), Fibrinogen (SEQ ID NO.:15); Villin (SEQ ID NO.:16); and GBP (SEQ ID NO.:17).

Kindly replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 20-25, with the following clean version.

Figure 7 shows a comparison of the Ced-3 proteins of *C. elegans* (line 1) (SEQ ID NO.:19) and related nematodes, *C. briggsae* (line 2) (SEQ ID NO.:20) and *C. vulgaris*